Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

MONTHLY VARIATIONS OF RAINFALL AT PHILADELPHIA.

By Pliny Earle Chase.

Read Feb. 4, 1870.

The following Tables may be of service in the study of secular rainfall. The Normals, in Table II. were computed from the observations of seven successive years, in the same manner as those in my previous discussions.

I. Monthly Rainfall at Philadelphia, for Forty-five Years.

	Jan.	*Feb.*	*Mar.*	*Apl.*	*May.*	*June.*	*Jul.*	*Aug.*	*Sep.*	*Oct.*	*Nov.*	*Dec.*
1825	.84	3.26	4.63	.83	1.72	3.59	2.06	3.70	2.61	1.25	1.36	3.72
1826	1.11	2.13	5.80	3.87	.19	4.65	3.68	2.75	2.00	5.83	1.85	1.28
1827	2.86	3.55	1.23	2.83	2.50	2.09	2.97	5.75	.79	5.91	4.76	3.26
1828	2.05	2.75	3.35	3.82	3.49	2.69	5.33	1.51	4.62	1 39	6.71	.26
1829	5.37	3.75	2.87	4.99	2.68	3.44	4.35	4.61	2.01	2.30	3.97	1.51
1830	1.63	2.06	4.11	1.82	3.75	5.99	4.07	3.87	2.93	4.31	5.35	5 18
1831	6.02	2.44	3.17	5.20	1.07	3.56	4.17	5.39	5.33	4.51	1.88	1.20
1832	4.58	2.66	1.90	2.98	5.40	1.55	2.62	5.69	1.40	3.41	2.59	5.09
1833	3.97	1.24	2.22	.70	5.88	5.28	4.15	3.39	3.82	10.05	2.18	5.67
1834	2.49	2.22	2.02	2.83	3.52	3.99	4.35	.62	3.57	3.29	3.01	2.33
1835	2.75	1.81	3.83	4.33	1.99	6.27	6.55	2.05	2.63	1.22	3.19	2.68
1836	7.62	2.99	1.75	3.47	2.28	7.31	2.91	1.97	1.82	3.59	3.34	3.61
1837	2.50	3.58	3.76	2.83	4.86	2.83	5.89	4.06	2 28	.66	3.23	2.53
1838	2.20	2.19	3.17	3.59	3.58	6 60	2.38	2.78	9.52	4.90	3.35	1.04
1839	5.04	3.42	1.50	1.51	6.07	3.92	2.52	4.64	2.92	2.83	3.10	6.26
1840	1.84	3.01	2.63	6.83	2.69	5.95	4.54	5.55	2.50	5.73	2.49	3.65
1841	7.84	1.39	5.82	6.46	3.27	3.11	3.28	9.10	1.90	3.20	4.22	5.92
1842	1.36	4.26	2.84	5.31	5.86	3.19	11.80	3.79	1.27	1.71	3.49	3.66
1843	1.44	2.54	4.41	4.72	2.04	1.69	4.54	9.25	4.86	3.22	4.15	4.04
1844	4.05	1.45	4.43	1.35	3.09	3.35	5 28	2.40	4.03	5.02	2.95	2.75
1845	3.76	4.74	2.42	2.58	1.60	3.72	2.76	7.30	2.16	2.53	2.50	3.96
1846	4.63	3.33	4.60	2.11	3.44	3.30	4.60	4.27	.25	2.44	7.97	3.44
1847	4.73	4.57	4.70	.59	1.57	3.30	2 76	3.18	8.07	3.00	2.84	5.78
1848	2.03	1.44	2.76	1.54	4.90	4.43	3.28	1.71	1.81	3.74	2.34	5.01
1849	.73	2.61	5 47	1.75	3.99	2.20	2.93	6.97	1.40	5.59	2.60	5.84
1850	4.77	2.87	4.75	2.66	6.50	2.03	5.97	8.33	7.73	1.09	3.32	4.51
1851	1.23	3.11	3.47	4.56	4.82	3.44	2.52	2.56	1.13	3.02	3.36	2.27
1852	2.01	2.71	4.27	6.44	3.03	4.03	4.06	4.40	1.29	2.27	6.05	5.17
1853	1.85	4.44	2.46	3.83	5.17	1.10	6.30	3.09	4.46	3.47	2.32	2.17
1854	2.33	4.20	1.62	7.75	6.93	2.39	3.02	.84	3.80	1.55	2.83	2.91
1855	2.34	2.35	1.68	2.05	2.96	7.95	6.40	2.79	4.00	4.11	2.04	5.42
1856	4.54	1.24	2.23	3.51	2.60	1.99	1.51	6.00	4.01	1.30	2.07	2.94
1857	3.53	.79	1.83	6.79	5.55	7.50	3.91	7.59	1.11	2.69	1.45	5.55
1858	2.59	2.29	1.09	4.64	5.01	4.50	1.35	4.94	1.49	1.84	5.61	4.50
1859	6.67	3.66	6.98	5.61	2.25	6.01	4.07	4.74	7.68	3.13	3.82	3.49
1860	3.22	2.75	1.42	3.80	3.82	2.88	.99	8.40	2.85	4.52	6.13	3.31
1861	5.24	2.07	3.92	3.71	6.64	3.88	2.56	3.14	4.40	3.80	4.87	2.09
1862	4.79	4.64	3.55	4.16	2.31	6.97	2.46	.93	3.98	4.77	4.79	1.65
1863	4.72	4.68	5.88	7.01	4.51	4.25	6.01	1.45	.88	2.46	2.70	4.63
1864	1.70	.55	5.17	3.80	8.68	2.35	3.77	1.92	7.16	1.82	3.93	5.14
1865	3.61	5.82	4.71	2.83	7.21	4.75	2.97	3.77	7.96	3.05	3.96	5.61
1866	3.15	6.61	2.15	2.93	4.68	2.96	2.52	2.18	8.70	4.14	1.76	3.47
1867	1.70	3.89	5.46	1.81	7.32	11.02	2.39	15.82	1.72	4.32	2.94	2.73
1868	3.62	2.52	3.36	5.44	7.00	4.37	3.51	2.67	8.91	1.74	5.28	3.60
1869	4.28	4.66	5.30	2.12	4.24	5.58	2.89	1.28	3.25	6.32	3.73	5.91

II. MONTHLY NORMALS OF RAINFALL AT PHILADELPHIA, FOR 40 YEARS.

	Jan.	*Feb.*	*Mar.*	*Apl.*	*May.*	*June.*	*Jul.*	*Aug.*	*Sep.*	*Oct.*	*Nov.*	*Dec.*
1828	2.94	3.06	3.06	3.66	2.73	3.25	4.21	3.66	2.69	3.41	4.86	1.88
1829	3.47	2.95	3.18	3.74	2.96	3.74	4.34	3 87	3.03	3.18	4.75	2.26
1830	3.91	2.69	3.24	3.65	3.01	4.01	4.12	4.36	3.28	3.64	4.03	2.91
1831	4.28	2.41	2.95	3.39	3.39	3.79	3.81	4.71	3.36	4.44	3.20	3.50
1832	4.28	2.17	2.53	2.90	4.07	3.64	3.71	4.36	3.26	5·22	2.67	3.97
1833	3.86	2.00	2.36	2.56	4.31	4.07	4.04	3.33	3.17	5.35	2.61	4.01
1834	3.62	2.03	2.50	2.81	3.76	4.89	4.55	2.33	3.05	4.39	2.84	3.56
1835	3.94	2.34	2.72	3.28	3.13	5.50	4.78	2.07	2.83	3.12	3.09	3.09
1836	4.19	2.70	2.87	3.41	3.18	5.56	4.56	2.48	3.05	2.52	3.23	2.86
1837	3.87	2.92	2.89	3.24	3.75	5.26	4.07	3.10	3.98	2.72	3.26	2.83
1838	3.51	2.94	2.78	3.28	4.23	5.04	3.57	3.79	4.66	3.30	3.20	3.20
1839	3.64	2.86	2.80	3.93	4.25	4.89	3.50	4.74	4.16	3.83	3.15	3.95
1840	3.99	2.77	3.22	4.96	4.01	4.49	4.26	5.79	3.02	3.90	3.25	4.53
1841	3.91	2.75	3 77	5.52	3.89	3.80	5.64	6.42	2.41	3.47	3.50	4.58
1842	3.28	2.80	4.01	5.10	3.74	3.11	6.53	6.41	2.66	3.12	3.66	4.23
1843	2.91	2.81	3.98	4.01	3.29	2.84	6.14	6.02	3.16	3.23	3.61	3.80
1844	3.23	2.95	3.85	2.93	2.78	3.01	5.00	5.57	3.19	3.39	3.67	3.58
1845	3.84	3.36	3.80	2.22	2.54	3.30	4.10	5.09	2.93	3.18	4.08	3.75
1846	4.05	3.58	3.92	1.78	2.67	3.46	3.65	4.43	3.11	2.93	4.34	4.25
1847	3.61	3.30	4.07	1.51	3.11	3.47	3.42	3.91	3.50	3.26	3.89	4.83
1848	2.88	2.81	4.21	1.59	3.71	3.29	3.44	4.26	3.58	3.61	3.16	5.13
1849	2.49	2.61	4.37	2.15	4.30	2.96	3.72	5.22	3.57	3.52	2.94	4.94
1850	2.42	2.74	4.34	3.12	4.78	2.84	3.97	5.51	3.51	3.02	3.30	4.37
1851	2.28	2.99	4.00	4.22	4.77	2.93	4.09	4.77	3.12	2.66	3.78	3.84
1852	2.06	3.33	3.42	5.00	4.65	2.92	4.31	3.71	2.89	2.62	3.87	3.52
1853	2.08	3.58	2.74	5.21	4.82	2.99	4.58	2.92	3.25	2.67	3.39	3.41
1854	2.41	3.31	2.16	4.90	4.76	3.61	4.54	2.78	3.70	2.67	2.74	3.57
1855	2.92	2.53	1.92	4.45	4.29	4.45	4.09	3.64	3.64	2.58	2.31	3.94
1856	3.41	1.81	1.94	4.49	4.04	5.00	3.45	4.99	3.12	2.42	2.34	4.27
1857	3.72	1.70	2.22	4.94	4.17	5.26	2.93	5.80	2.84	2.36	2.94	4.41
1858	4.05	2.17	2.84	5.13	4.14	5.22	2.66	5.88	3.30	2.63	3.86	4.23
1859	4.41	2.66	3.40	4.83	3.99	4.82	2.47	5.71	4.06	3.19	4.64	3.72
1860	4.62	2.92	3.55	4.41	4.11	4.48	2.36	5.16	4.27	3.74	4.99	3.08
1861	4.66	3.19	3.68	4.35	4.35	4.59	2.61	3.86	3.92	3.94	4.84	2.74
1862	4 45	3.47	4.20	4.66	4.65	4.74	3.31	2.46	3.67	3.64	4.34	3.04
1863	3.92	3.53	4.75	4.94	5.41	4.41	3.89	1.93	4.22	3.08	3.84	3.89
1864	3.33	3.74	4.78	4.57	6.33	4.01	3.81	2.41	5.59	2.81	3.53	4.57
1865	3.00	4.36	4.34	3.61	6.64	4.33	3.26	3.81	6.64	3.09	3.26	4.55
1866	2.87	4.74	4.02	3.02	6.48	5.39	2.84	5.73	6.55	3.50	3.12	4.02
1867	2.93	4.42	4.08	3.11	6.33	6.24	2.80	6.61	5.87	3.70	3.41	3.73

Table I. indicates the following probabilities:

1. Of a *change* of weather (from a preceding wet month, or season, to a dry one, or *vice versa*).

In September,	$\frac{3}{5}$	In Autumn,	$\frac{8}{15}$
" November,	$\frac{5}{9}$		
" January,	$\frac{6}{11}$		
" April,	$\frac{8}{15}$		

2. Of a *continuance* of the weather of the preceding month or season.

In January,	$\frac{5}{9}$	In Winter,	$\frac{9}{14}$
" February,	$\frac{6}{11}$	" Summer,	$\frac{3}{5}$
" October,	$\frac{8}{15}$	" Spring,	$\frac{8}{15}$
" December,	$\frac{8}{15}$		

The indicated probability, nearly $\frac{5}{9}$, that a rainy February will be followed by a dry Summer (June to October, inclusive), and *vice versa*, is very curious.